

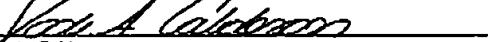
11/09/2004 TUE 11:58 FAX 414 278 0039 BOYLE FREDRICKSON NEWHOL

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Jodi A. Calderon

Date:

11-9-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/672,713

Examiner: Arpad F Kovacs

Filing Date: September 26, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3671

Inventor: Sugden et al.

Attorney Docket No. 864.046

Assignee: Scag Power Equipment, Inc.

Invention: **LAWN STRIPER**

**PROPOSED ARGUMENTS, AMENDMENTS AND EXHIBITS TO BE
DISCUSSED DURING INTERVIEW**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: Examiner Arpad F Kovacs

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for Examiner Kovacs's review are proposed arguments, amendments, and exhibits regarding the final Office Action dated October 27, 2004 in the above-captioned patent application submitted for the purposes of discussion during an interview to be conducted at a time to be determined. The total length of this transmission, including this transmittal letter, is 15 pages. Should this transmission be incomplete or any pages thereof unintelligible, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Respectively submitted,


Timothy E. Newholm

Enclosures

Dated: November 9, 2004

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(00068519.DOC /)

To: Arpad F Kovacs
From: Timothy E. Newholm, Reg. No. 34,400
Re: Final Office Action dated October 27, 2004
Arguments/Amendments to be discussed during interview
U.S. Application Ser. No. 10/672,713

Page 2

MEMO

To: Arpad F Kovacs
From: Timothy E. Newholm, Reg. No. 34,400
Re: Final Office Action dated October 27, 2004
Arguments/Amendments to be discussed during interview
U.S. Application Ser. No. 10/672,713

The purpose of this memo is to outline the arguments/amendments to be made in the proposed interview.

Before addressing specific claim limitations, I will point to the fundamental conceptual difference between the invention as generally disclosed and claimed in the present application and the prior art cited by the Examiner. The invention generally relates to a roller assembly for a lawnmower that is towed behind the lawnmower's deck and that rides along the surface of the ground for purposes of placing decorative stripes on freshly cut grass. The roller assembly does not support and, indeed, is incapable of supporting, the cutting deck on the ground (this characteristic is expressly recited in claim 32, which the Examiner ignored in his Office Action). If the rollers are raised or removed, the cutter deck is held in its desired position by other support structure, and cutting would proceed normally. In contrast, both the Worthington and Day references relied upon in the Office Action relate to so-called "gauge" rollers that form the same general function as a wheel, i.e., they support part or all of the weight of a cutter deck on the ground. If the rollers were to be raised or removed, the cutter deck would rest directly on the ground.

The interview will focus on three primary aspects of the invention, each of which is recited individually in one or more independent claims that are not disclosed by the prior art relied upon in the rejections. These aspects include:

- A spring biased roller assembly;
- A roller assembly mountable on a lawnmower frame via a quick connect coupling; and
- A stowable roller assembly that is latchable in a raised, inoperative position.